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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An operating system, tangibly stored on machine readable medium, the operating system comprising:

a non-preemptive microkernel executing two or more processes in accordance with a non-preemptive scheduling scheme, wherein each process executed by the non-preemptive microkernel is only interrupted relinquishes a processor for a higher priority process to execute only when the process blocks or explicitly requests to be preempted; and

one or more kernels each being executed as a process by the non-preemptive microkernel, wherein at least one of the one or more kernels executes an operating system as a dependent process, the operating system being a time-sliced operating system or a time-sliced microkernel.

2-3. (Cancelled)

- 4. (Previously Presented) The operating system of claim 1, wherein the operating system is Unix.
- 5. (Previously Presented) The operating system of claim 1, wherein each of the two or more processes executed by the non-preemptive microkernel has its own stack.
- 6. (Previously Presented) The operating system of claim 1, wherein each of the two or more processes executed by the non-preemptive microkernel communicate using one or more messages.

PAGE 3/11 * RCVD AT 8/15/2005 9:58:50 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/25 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:6508395071 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-20

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- 7. (Previously Presented) The operating system of claim 1, wherein each of the two or more processes executed by the non-preemptive microkernel has a unique process identifier (PID)
- 8. (Original) The operating system of claim 7, further comprising a mailbox coupled to a plurality of processes to service messages sent to a single PID.
- 9. (Previously Presented) The operating system of claim 1, wherein each of the two ore more processes executed by the non-preemptive microkernel never terminates.
- 10. (Previously Presented) The operating system of claim 1, wherein one of the one or more kernels is a microkernel.
- (Currently Amended) A method for operating a computer system including a 11. CPU, comprising:

managing two or more processes with a non-preemptive microkernel, the microkernel executing the two or more processes in accordance with a non-preemptive scheduling scheme, wherein each process executed by the non-preemptive microkernel is only interrupted relinquishes the CPU for a higher priority process to execute only when the process blocks or explicitly requests to be preempted:

executing one or more kernels as one or more processes managed by the non-preemptive microkernel; and

executing an operating system in one of the one or more kernels as a dependent process, the operating system being a time-sliced operating system or a time-sliced microkernel,

12-13. (Cancelled)

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14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the operating system is Unix.

- 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein each of the two or more processes executed by the non-preemptive microkernel has its own stack.
- 16. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising performing inter-process communication using one or more messages.
- 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein each of the two or more processes executed by the non-preemptive microkernel has a unique process identifier (PID).
- 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising servicing messages sent to a single PID by a plurality of processes using a mailbox.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising executing the two or more processes without termination.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising executing a microkernel in one of the one or more kernels.

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21. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a processor;

means for managing two or more processes with a non-preemptive microkernel, the microkernel executing the two or more processes in accordance with a non-preemptive scheduling scheme, wherein each process executed by the non-preemptive microkernel is only interrupted-relinquishes the processor for a higher priority process to execute only when the process blocks or explicitly requests to be preempted;

means for executing one or more kernels as one or more processes managed by the non-preemptive microkernel; and

means for executing an operating system in one of the one or more kernels as a dependent process, the operating system being a time-sliced operating system or a time-sliced microkernel.

22 - 23. (Cancelled)

- 24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the operating system is Unix.
- 25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein each of the two or more processes executed by the non-preemptive microkernel has its own stack.
- 26. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising means for performing inter-process communication using one or more messages.
- 27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein each of the two or more processes executed by the non-preemptive microkernel has a unique process identifier (PID).
- 28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising means for servicing messages sent to a single PID by a plurality of processes using a mailbox.

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- 29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising means for executing each of the two or more processes executed by the non-preemptive microkernel without termination.
- 30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising means for executing a microkernel in one of the one or more kernels.
 - 31. (Currently Amended) A computer, comprising: an interconnect bus;

one or more processors coupled to the interconnect bus and adapted to be configured for server-specific functionalities including network processing, file processing, storage processing and application processing;

a configuration processor coupled to the interconnect bus and to the processors, the configuration processor dynamically assigning processor functionalities upon request; one or more data storage devices coupled to the processors and managed by a file system; a non-preemptive microkernel executing two or more processes in accordance with a non-preemptive scheduling scheme, wherein each process executed by the non-preemptive microkernel is only interrupted relinquishes one of the one or more processors for a higher priority process to execute only when the process blocks or explicitly requests to be preempted;

one or more kernels each being executed as a process by the non-preemptive microkernel, wherein at least one of the one or more kernels executes an operating system as a dependent process, the operating system being a time-sliced operating system or a time-sliced microkernel.

(Cancelled)

and

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33. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 31, wherein the non-preemptive microkernel executes a network switch operating system as a dependent process.